(a) whether Government is formulating regulations for the mega mergers and corporate restructuring deals to be followed by the Completion Commission of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of proposals pending with Government for mergers; and

(d) the decision taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) The Competition Act, 2002 *inter alia* provides for regulation of combinations in accordance with the provisions contained therein. However, the provisions of the Competition Act, 2002 relating to regulation of combinations, including mergers and amalgamations have not yet come into force as the same have not been notified.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Developmental projects in the North Eastern Region

3203. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of developmental projects in the North-Eastern Region being implemented at present with the Central assistance;

(b) the number out of them, pending for over three years, less than three years but more than two years and less than two years but more than one year; and

(c) the details to the reasons for delay in their completion in each case and the steps proposed to expedite their completion?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) The Ministry of DoNER provides Central assistance for the developmental projects in the North Eastern Region under Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR). North Eastern Council (NEC) also sanctions projects in NE States. The number of developmental projects under implementation which were sanctioned in the North Eastern Region under NLCPR and through NEC, and number of them pending for over three years, less than three years but more than two years and less than two years but more than on year is given below.

No. of projects under implementation	No. of Projects pending by			
	More than 1 year	More than 2 Years	More than 3 Years	Total
666	115	123	164	402

(c) The main reason for their pendency, *inter alia*, includes the shorter working period because of long rainy season in the North Eastern Region, delay in release of funds by the State

Governments to the implementing agencies, law and order problem and limitation of technical and professional expertise. In order to expedite their implementation these project are being monitored regularly for their early completion. The State Government have been advised to ensure timely release of funds to the implementing agencies and also review the progress on quarterly basis at the level of Chief Secretary.

Transport and communication problems of NER

3204. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the prime hurdle in the development of the North-Eastern States is the problem of transport and communication;

(b) the extent of emphasis the Central Government is laying on this aspect; and

(c) the details of efforts of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Eleventh Plan document emphasizes connectivity, *viz.* road, rail, air, inland waterways and telecommunication, as key areas for the development of North Eastern Region. The Eleventh Plan lays special emphasis on the improvement of infrastructure in the region. Details of the efforts made by the Government in the development of transport and communication infrastructure in the region are as under:

Road Connectivity:

Road Transport is a State Subject. It is the responsibility of State Governments to provide efficient, coordinated and economic passenger road transport services to its citizens. Keeping in view the present state of affairs of public transport services in the States, the Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways has drafted a Scheme for providing central assistance to the State Governments including North Eastern States for strengthening public transport systems in the Country. Secondly, Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for North East (SARDP-NE) has been formulated by the Government with the objective to upgrade National Highways connecting State Capitals to 2/4 lane and to provide connectivity of all District Headquarter towns of NER by at least 2-lane NH, State road and GS road. The SARDP-NE programme has been divided into 3 parts *i.e.* Phase 'A', Phase 'B' and Arunachal Pradesh Package of Roads and Highways. The programme envisages improvement of 9760km of roads as per the details given in the Statement-I (*See* below).

SARDP-NE Phase 'A' and Arunachal Pradesh Package of Roads and Highways has been approved by the Government for implementation and for Phase 'B' approval for preparation of DPR has been given. So far, estimates for improvement of 1058km. roads at